against the officials found guilty ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : (a) to (e) The entire matter relating to wet leasing of aircraft by Air India is being looked into by the Central Bureau of Investigation.

[Translation]

Helicopter Crash

2980. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of army helicopters crashed and those damaged by foreign missiles in the country during 1995-96, 1996-97 till July 15, 1997; separately;

(b) the number of soldiers injured and killed therein; and

(c) the quantum and nature of assistance and other facilities provided so far to those injured and killed in these crashes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (c) During the years 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 (till 15th July 1997) 1, 1 and 2 Army helicopters respectively , crashed in which 3 soldiers were killed. No one was injured. No helicopter has been damaged by foreign missiles. In addition to the compensation from Group Insurance Scheme, the service personnel are given an ex-gratia grant of rupees one lakh.

[English]

North Koyal Canal Project in Bihar

2981. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the North Koyal Canal Project is the largest irrigation project of Bihar;

(b) whether the irrigation of Palamu Aruangabad, Chatra, Gaya, Nawada and Monghyr district depends on this project;

(c) whether wok on this project lying pending;

(d) whether the Union Government propose to provide Central Assistance for the completion of this project; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) to (c) North Koel Project is one of the major ongoing irrigation projects of Bihar. On completion, it shall provide irrigation benefits to palamu, Aurangabad and Gaya Districts. The anticipated expenditure upto March, 1997 was Rs. 419.23 crores.

(d) to (e) The project has not been given clearance by the Planning Commission as the project report was sent back to the State Government in June, 1996 due to non-compliance of the observations of the Technical Advisory Committee.

Upper Tunga Project

2982. DR. M. JAGANNATH :
SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY :
SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether in spite of opposition by the Andhra Pradesh Government, the Karnataka Government continues to construct the Upper Tunga Project;

(b) if so, the efforts made by the Andhra Government to stop construction of said project by Karnataka;

(c) whether the Union Government have also opposed the Karnataka's move to construct the Upper Tunga Project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and present position in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) to (d) Upper Tunga Project in Krishna Basin of Karnataka has not been given Investment Clearance by the Union Government. The State of Andhra Pradesh has filed a suit in the Supreme Court of India under Article 131 of the Constitution in the matter of violation of decision of Krishna Water Dispute Tribuanl against the States of Karnataka and Maharashtra & Union of India.

Merger of AAI with IAAI

2983. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee appointed by the